

Book Reviews

A Text-Book of General Bacteriology. By Edwin O. Jordan, Ph. D., Professor of Bacteriology, in the University of Chicago and in Rush Medical College. Fifth edition thoroughly revised. Octavo of 669 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$3.25 net.

Since the enthusiastic reception accorded the first edition of this attractive text-book, no less than ten reprints and revisions have been justified by the demand for Professor Jordan's work. This fifth edition has all of the material that made the preceding editions so valuable as elementary and intermediate texts and has some additional material on the classification of pneumococci, on mouth entamebae, on the Schick reaction, Hodgkin's disease and other matter that presents new aspects. Further than this it seems hardly necessary to dilate upon the merits of this very well known and well liked class-room manual. G. H. T.

Surgery and Diseases of the Mouth and Jaws. By V. P. Blair. 3rd edition. St. Louis: Mosby. 1917.

Major Blair has been made head of the Sub-section of Oral and Plastic Surgery in the Medical Department of the Army.

The new edition of his excellent treatise contains numerous additions. The chapters on the repair of defects and plastics have been elaborated, and considerable material on gun-shot injuries and military dental surgery has been added.

The book is singularly complete. We need not call it to the attention of dental surgeons—it is already their standard guide. We would, however, heartily recommend general surgeons to study it. They will gather many new ideas and a much-needed knowledge of what we owe to dentistry in the surgery of the face, jaws and tongue. L. E.

The Prescription, Therapeutically, Pharmaceutically, Grammatically and Historically Considered. By Otto A. Wall, fourth edition. St. Louis: Mosby Company. 1917.

This book treats the prescription historically, pharmaceutically and legally. The author traces its evolution almost from the ape man to the present day. He dissects it thoroughly and discusses each part in detail. He does not treat the legal status as thoroughly as we might wish. Perhaps he is wise in this. There are so many conflicting court decisions regarding the ownership of a prescription that the question seems to belong in the "how old is Ann" class. The book is one which will help every physician and pharmacist who reads it. The older practitioner will find it interesting and instructive with nothing pedantic about it, and the medical student who reads it carefully, will find added dignity in the scrap of paper called a prescription. F. L.

Hygiene of the Face and Cosmetic Guide. By Richard W. Müller, M. D. New York: Dutton. 1917.

Here is a subject of perennial interest to the laity especially to the feminine portion thereof. That the matter should be approached by a medical man so much in the method of the Sunday supplement is to be regretted.

The volume is a compilation of useful and useless formulae which the author is frank enough to state he has gleaned from many sources. "He has even read and taken from journals on beauty."

The volume is scarcely worthy of serious review. That a practitioner of medicine should attempt to

stimulate the feminine habit of dabbling on chemicals to enhance beauty, when the practice is notoriously overdone already, is certainly to be deprecated.

To gain an adequate idea of the book one really needs to look no further than the publisher's notice on the outer cover whereon it is stated that with a little intelligent treatment wrinkles and spots may be kept at bay. One can imagine the keen-eyed seeker after beauty spying these alluring words on the cover, carrying it off in triumph and a few days later emerging with stacks of masks, vibrators and such creams for wrinkles as the author's mixture of lanolin, rose water and witchhazel. E. D. C.

Handbook of Gynecology. By H. F. Lewis and A. de Roulet. St. Louis: Mosby. 1917.

There is not enough original material in this book to warrant its publication. Here and there is a good suggestion, but there is too much detail in matters of minor technique. A lecturer could, by adding much of his personal experience, make this book the basis of a lecture or demonstration, but to expect others to adopt it is too much. M. I. J.

Impotence and Sterility with Aberrations of the Sexual Function and Sex-Gland Implantation. By G. Frank Lydston, M. D., D. C. L. Price, \$4.00. Riverton Press, Chicago, Ill.

The reading of this masterwork was a pleasure and highly instructive, but to do it justice in a short review is rather a difficult task. From the first pages to the closing words everything is relevant and valuable. The author's enormous personal experience, his keen power of observation dominate every question. We mention the lucid descriptions of various forms of so-called hermaphroditism; the ingenious theory of explaining qualitative and quantitative psychic and physical aberrations and perversions by quantitative and qualitative perversions of the sex hormones; the dictum: that it is probable that no man who had indulged in sexual congress or masturbation to any degree prior to full maturity is ever possessed of normal sexual sensibility in later life; the conservative views in regard to masturbation and sexual excesses; another dictum that the sex gland hormone is the most important of all in the nutritive hormone cycle; the explanation of infertility in some marriages where both parties may later prove fertile by hormone incompatibility; the sane and practical views on matrimony; and, the most important of all: Lydston's experiments and splendid successes in sex gland transplantations. The author opens new horizons in regard to sterility in woman and the possible correction of some vicissitudes of human breeding. He raises many questions, and this work of his is sure to stimulate study and research of all-important endocrinology. Lydston hopes to succeed in greatly impeding the wheel of time in its remorseless grind upon human life. His experiments and experience justify him in saying, and we must agree with him, that therapeutic effectiveness of implanted cells is no more an open question. We hope that other surgeons will follow Lydston's lead, and strongly urge every physician to read this book. V. G. V.

Correspondence

FROM SURGEON U. R. WEBB, U. S. N.

U. S. S. Solace.

To the Editor:

Your letter of February 14 has just reached me. I was detached from duty at Mare Island and ordered to command the "Solace" a few days after writing you concerning the draft for physi-